

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1081

By Whitson

A RESOLUTION to honor Lieutenant Colonel Jonathon F. Flanders, United States Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement.

WHEREAS, this General Assembly is pleased to honor the patriotism and dedicated service of Lieutenant Colonel Jonathon F. Flanders, United States Air Force, a twenty-two-year veteran of the military who is retiring on June 6, 2018, in order to spend more time with his family and concentrate fully on his business; and

WHEREAS, entering the Air Force as a Second Lieutenant, Jon Flanders rose rapidly through the ranks and will retire as a Lieutenant Colonel with the Office of the Inspector General; among his many accomplishments as an officer and a gentleman is his tenure as commander of the 25<sup>th</sup> Aerial Port Squadron at Maxwell Air Force Base; and

WHEREAS, after his father was forced to undergo heart surgery in 2006, Lt. Col. Flanders stepped in to lead Botanico, his father's nursery business, as general manager and chief operating officer, and eventually president, while also serving as an officer in the Air Force; he will continue in these roles post-retirement to guide Botanico through a period of rapid growth; and

WHEREAS, during his freshman year at the University of Tennessee, Knoxville (UTK), Jon Flanders enlisted in the U.S. Army on a delayed-entry basis; after completing his basic training, he returned to UTK for his sophomore year, and after being approached by recruiters on campus, decided to change career paths to become an officer in the Air Force; and

WHEREAS, during his junior and senior years at UTK, he served as a Cadet Wing Commander in Army ROTC while also maintaining his commitment to the Air Force and even led the ROTC contingent during his own graduation ceremony; and

WHEREAS, Jon Flanders received a bachelor's degree in logistics and business administration from UTK and was narrowly bested for valedictorian honors by Peyton Manning, who was also a pretty fair football player; and

WHEREAS, his many accomplishments and distinguished military career aside, Lt. Col. Flanders is most grateful for the love and companionship he shares with his wife, Stacey "Pipi" Flanders, and their daughter, Chloe; and

WHEREAS, for twenty-two years, Lt. Col. Jon Flanders served to protect our individual and collective freedom and the American way of life, and he should be recognized on this special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel Jonathon F. Flanders, United States Air Force, on the occasion of his retirement from the military, salute his illustrious service to his country, and extend to him our best wishes for much continued success and happiness in his future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.